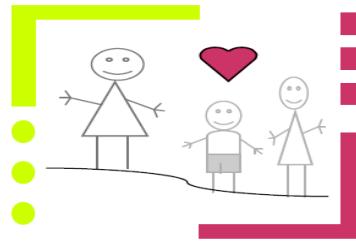


*If you have additional
questions regarding this
pamphlet or other questions
regarding child safety,
please contact:*

*Jefferson County Human
Services Department
1541 Annex Road
Jefferson WI 53549
(920)674-3105*

*The following is an informational
pamphlet prepared by the Jefferson
County Citizen Review Panel.
It is intended to provide basic
information and guidelines for
residents of Jefferson County.*



*For information on local babysitting
& first aid courses, please contact:*

Fort Health Care
(920)568-5000
[https://www.forthhealthcare.com/
classes-listing](https://www.forthhealthcare.com/classes-listing)

Watertown Regional Medical Center
(920) 261-4210
[http://www.uwhpwatertown.com/
Main/EventCalendar.aspx](http://www.uwhpwatertown.com/Main/EventCalendar.aspx)

**Jefferson County Human
Services Department**

*Home Alone -
How Old Is Old
Enough?*



*A Guideline For
Supervision Of
Children*

How Old Is Old Enough?

As a parent you may wonder at what age your child can be left unsupervised or can babysit other children. There is no legal age limit for leaving a child on their own but a child cannot be left alone if it places them at risk. Parents can be prosecuted if they leave a child unsupervised in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to their child's health.

Many experts advise that:

- Infants, toddlers, and very young children should never be left alone.
- Children under the age of 12 are rarely mature enough to be left home alone for a long period of time.
- Children under the age of 16 should not be left alone overnight.

The following are some guidelines to consider for leaving your child unattended or allowing them to babysit other children:

- The age and maturity of your child.
- The child's ability to contact a parent, guardian, or caretaker by phone or in person if necessary.
- The child's awareness of how to react in an emergency situation, such as a fire or physical injury.
- The child's awareness of dangers or hazards within the home, such as the stove or fireplace.
- The child's physical, emotional, and intellectual abilities.
- What is your child's reaction to being left home alone? Do they feel safe and confident in staying home alone?

If you do leave your child home alone, remember to do the following:

- Leave a phone for your child and numbers for yourself and/or at least one other trusted adult nearby that your child can call if needed. Make sure your child is aware of when to call 911.
- Talk to your child about how to stay safe while home alone (i.e. such as not answering the door to strangers, playing with matches).
- Make sure dangerous objects (i.e. matches, knives, weapons, medications, chemicals) are not accessible.
- Leave clear instructions on what to do in case of an emergency.
- Let your child know how long they will be home alone.
- Set some basic rules about what your child is and is not allowed to do while home alone.
- Teach your child basic first aid.
- Consider enrolling your child in a babysitting and/or first aid course.